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Appl. No. 09/931,576  
Amdt. dated September 21, 2004  
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure  
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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A computing device executing a graphics rendering software program providing instructions to one or more processors to render graphics on a display, the computing device configured to establish a network connection with at least one other computing device, comprising:

a graphics driver rendering a plurality of drawing surfaces, including a first drawing surface and a second drawing surface, on the display, and

a memory storing graphic objects having a plurality of attributes, each graphic object representing a drawing surface of the plurality of drawing surfaces,

wherein the graphics driver is configured to render the first drawing surface at least partially overlapping the second drawing surface on the display, and

wherein, when the first drawing surface is rendered as partially overlapping the second drawing surface, a visible portion of the second drawing surface is computed as a set of rectangular clip segments, and

wherein the rectangular clip segments are attributes of a graphic object representing the second drawing surface, and

wherein the graphics driver is further configured to increment a visibility tag corresponding to the second drawing surface when a z-order of the second drawing surface is changed, and to compute a new set of rectangular clip segments if the visibility tag corresponding to the second drawing surface is not the same as a visibility tag corresponding to the first drawing surface.

2-3. (Canceled)

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4. (Previously Presented) The computing device of claim 1, wherein the first drawing surface and the second drawing surface, including both the visible portion and an obscured portion, comprise rectangular borders.

5. (Previously Presented) The computing device of claim 1, wherein each rectangular clip segment of the set of rectangular clip segments is iteratively output to the display for displaying the visible portion of the second drawing surface.

6. (Currently Amended) A computing device executing a graphics rendering software program providing instructions to one or more processors to render graphics on a display computing device configured to establish a network connection with at least one other computing device, comprising:

a graphics driver for rendering a plurality of drawing surfaces, including a first drawing surface and a second drawing surface, on the display of the embedded computing device, and

a memory storing graphic objects having a plurality of attributes, each graphic object representing a drawing surface of the plurality of drawing surfaces,

wherein the graphics driver is configured to render the first drawing surface at least partially overlapping the second drawing surface on the display, and

wherein, when the first drawing surface is rendered as partially overlapping the second drawing surface, a visible portion of the second drawing surface is computed as a set of rectangular clip segments, and

wherein the set of rectangular clip segments is stored as a graphics context object corresponding to unobscured segments of the second drawing surface, and

wherein the rectangular clip segments are attributes of a graphic object representing the second drawing surface, and

wherein the graphics driver is further configured to increment a visibility tag corresponding to the second drawing surface when a z-order of the second drawing surface is changed, and to compute a new set of rectangular clip segments if the visibility tag

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corresponding to the second drawing surface is not the same as a visibility tag corresponding to the first drawing surface.

7-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The computing device of claim 6, wherein the first drawing surface and the second drawing surface, including both the visible portion and an obscured portion, comprise rectangular borders.

10. (Currently amended) A computing device of claim 18 wherein the clip segments are shaped rectangular, executing a graphics rendering software program for providing instructions to one or more processors to render graphics on a display of an embedded the computing device configured for establishing to establish a network connection with at least one other computing device, comprising:

a graphics driver rendering a plurality of drawing surfaces, including a first drawing surface and a second drawing surface, on the display, and wherein the graphics driver is configured to render the first drawing surface at least partially overlapping the second drawing surface on the display, and

wherein, when the first drawing surface is rendered as partially overlapping the second drawing surface, a visible portion of the second drawing surface is computed as a set of rectangular clip segments, and

wherein the set of rectangular clip segments is stored as a graphics context object corresponding to unobscured segments of the second drawing surface, and

wherein each rectangular clip segment of the set of rectangular clip segments is iteratively output to the display for displaying the visible portion of the second drawing surface, and

wherein the graphics driver is further configured to increment a visibility tag corresponding to the second drawing surface when a z-order of the second drawing surface is changed, and to compute a new set of rectangular clip segments if the visibility tag

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~~corresponding to the second drawing surface is not the same as a visibility tag corresponding to the first drawing surface.~~

11-12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The computing device of claim 10, wherein the first drawing surface and the second drawing surface, including both the visible portion and an obscured portion, comprise rectangular borders.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) The computing device of claim [[14]]1, wherein the graphics driver includes:

(1) a shape function layer including a target architecture specific instruction set for setting and retrieving pixel numbers, respectively, into and from a one dimensional frame buffer memory; and

(2) a framebuffer access macro layer including a set of macros inlining into the shape function layer.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The computing device of claim [[16]]6, wherein the graphics driver includes:

(1) a shape function layer including a target architecture specific instruction set for setting and retrieving pixel numbers, respectively, into and from a one dimensional framebuffer memory; and

(2) a framebuffer access macro layer including a set of macros inlining into the shape function layer.

18. (Currently Amended) A computing device executing a graphics rendering software program providing instructions to one or more processors to render graphics on a

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display, the computing device configured to establish a network connection with at least one other computing device, comprising:

    a graphics driver rendering a plurality of drawing surfaces, including a first drawing surface and a second drawing surface, on the display, and

a memory storing graphic objects having a plurality of attributes, each graphic object representing a drawing surface of the plurality of drawing surfaces,

    wherein the graphics driver is configured to render the first drawing surface at least partially overlapping the second drawing surface on the display, and

    wherein, when the first drawing surface is rendered as partially overlapping the second drawing surface, a visible portion of the second drawing surface is computed as a set of clip segments, and

    wherein the set of clip segments is stored as a graphics context object corresponding to unobscured segments of the second drawing surface, and

    wherein each clip segment of the set of clip segments is iteratively output to the display for displaying the visible portion of the second drawing surface[.].

wherein the clip segments are attributes of a graphic object representing the second drawing surface, and

    wherein the graphics driver is further configured to increment a visibility tag corresponding to the second drawing surface when a z-order of the second drawing surface is changed, and to compute a new set of rectangular clip segments if the visibility tag corresponding to the second drawing surface is not the same as a visibility tag corresponding to the first drawing surface.

19. (Previously Presented) The computing device of claim 18, wherein the graphics driver includes:

    (1) a shape function layer including a target architecture specific instruction set setting and retrieving pixel numbers, respectively, into and from a one dimensional framebuffer memory; and

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(2) a framebuffer access macro layer including a set of macros inlining into the shape function layer.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of rendering graphics including overlapping drawing surfaces on a display of an embedded computing device configured for establishing a network connection with at least one other computing device, comprising the steps of:

(a) storing in memory a partially obscured drawing surface as a graphic object having a plurality of attributes;

(a) computing a set of clip segments corresponding to a visible portion of [[a]]the partially obscured drawing surface; and

(b) rendering the partially obscured drawing surface along with an overlapping drawing surface on the display, and

(c) incrementing a visibility tag corresponding to the partially obscured drawing surface when a z-order of the partially obscured drawing surface is changed, and computing a new set of rectangular clip segments if the visibility tag corresponding to the partially obscured drawing surface is not the same as a visibility tag corresponding to the overlapping drawing surface.

wherein the set of clip segments are attributes of the graphic object.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the clip segments correspond to rectangular portions of the visible portion of the partially obscured drawing surface.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the partially obscured drawing surface and the overlapping drawing surface comprise rectangular borders.

23. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of storing the set of clip segments as a graphics context object corresponding to unobscured segments of the partially obscured drawing surface.

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24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the clip segments correspond to rectangular portions of the visible portion of the partially obscured drawing surface.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the partially obscured drawing surface and the overlapping drawing surface comprise rectangular borders.

26. (Original) The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of iteratively outputting each clip segment of the set of clip segments to the display for displaying the visible portion of the partially obscured drawing surface.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein the clip segments correspond to rectangular portions of the visible portion of the partially obscured drawing surface.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the partially obscured drawing surface and the overlapping drawing surface comprise rectangular borders.

29. (New) The computing device of claim 1 wherein an obscure portion of the second drawing surface is excluded from processing for rendering by the graphics driver.